

### REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 20, 2007. Claims 22 to 27 and 29 to 31 are pending in the application, of which Claims 22, 23, 26, 27 and 29 to 31 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 22 to 25 and 29 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 21 and 26 to 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,169,596 (Shiota). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Applicants have amended Claims 22, 23, 26, 27, and 29, and added new claims 30 and 31 in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 22 to 25 and 29. Claims 22, 23, and 29 have been rewritten in independent form, Claims 26 and 27 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 22, and Claims 30 and 31 have been written to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 23. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 22, 23, 26, 27, and 29 to 31 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

The other pending claims in this application are dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is

believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Frank Cire #42,419/  
Frank L. Cire  
Attorney for Applicants

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10112-3800  
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

FGHS\_WS 1414818v1